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From the Editor-in-Chief

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The late Shawn Cafferky's "Battle Honours Won: HMS *Nabob*, 1944" captures what was probably his most passionate academic interest, and certainly the most enduring one. This article's roots date at least to his MA thesis on the Second World War origins of the Royal Canadian Navy's aviation arm, which he completed in 1989 under R.H. Roy at the University of Victoria. Later that year he came to Ottawa to start a PhD at Carleton. He also undertook contract work at the Directorate of History, National Defence Headquarters, for the new official operational history of the navy in the Second World War that had recently got under way. Among his projects was the research narrative on the establishment of naval aviation in 1944-6. His PhD thesis, completed in 1996, was on the navy's development of the helicopter destroyer in the 1950s and early 60s, but he included two chapters on the Second World War background.

He completed the thesis in difficult circumstances. In 1991 he had won a competition for a five-year term position at the directorate, which normally would have led to permanent employment as a government historian. That was not a normal time, however. Cuts in the defence budget resulted in the trimming of DHist from 32 personnel to ten, and Shawn elected to leave the civil service to return to his beloved Victoria. It was not an easy time for academic employment in BC, and Shawn had to work around the clock to patch together short-term teaching and writing contracts. He could give little time to his foremost interest, naval aviation. Finally, in 2004 or early 2005, he got in touch to ask what he could do to revise the Second World War chapters

at the beginning of his PhD thesis; a prospective publisher wanted them to be shortened. After some discussion, we decided simply to remove the chapters, which may have been what the publisher was hinting at. The book came out within a year, *Uncharted Waters: A History of the Canadian Helicopter Carrying Destroyer* (2005). Shawn probably needed no urging, but I pressed him to work the material in the excised Second World War chapters into articles. It was nevertheless a surprise when he sent the manuscript for "Battle Honours Earned" to *Canadian Military History* in the latter part of 2006. I had just joined the editorial team, and, although hoping to increase naval content, had not discussed this with anyone. In any event, Shawn was not in a rush, and told me to take my time working into the new job. His academic employment had finally become stable, and he realized that such a big manuscript would take some time for peer review, revision and scheduling.

I last saw Shawn in February 2008 at a conference he helped David Zimmerman to organize in Victoria. As was the case with everything David and Shawn teamed up to host, it was a glorious event socially and academically. I subsequently had difficulties revising my own presentation for the proceedings, which Shawn was helping to edit. It was an interesting reversal of roles, for I had been Shawn's immediate boss at DHist, as well as one of his thesis advisors. I learned a good deal working for Shawn. He was unfailingly understanding and relentlessly positive. In September 2008, not long after I was able to finish my chapter for the proceedings with Shawn's kind encouragement, I got word of his sudden death; he was only 49 years of age.

I must confess that it has been difficult to pick up his work for editing; this is my third attempt. On

reflection, what has been hardest is realizing that we could not exchange, rapid fire, two or three-line e-mails or short, frequent phone calls as had been our habit when working together. One of Shawn's many winning qualities was his complete engagement with a project: he always seemed to be ready and waiting at the other end of the line no matter how early in the morning or late at night, and fairly bubbling with suggestions to resolve any kind of problem. Shawn, I'm sure, would be embarrassed by my grief. But I'm sure he is delighted that we are featuring his piece as part of our celebration of the navy's centennial.

It might seem a coincidence that Norman Hillmer is another author with strong DHist connections. He joined in 1972 and became senior historian in 1980, a position he held for ten years before moving to Carleton University. Yet the connection is perhaps less than surprising considering the central place of the directorate in the Canadian military history community for so many decades. His main work was in air force history, and he was editor-in-chief of W.A.B. Douglas's *The Creation of a National Air Force: The Official History of the Royal Canadian Air Force Vol. II* (1986). Norman's career-long interest in public policy, with nearly equal time in the civil service and university positions, particularly qualifies him to present a long view of the various "history wars" that have buffeted the Canadian War Museum. The present article grew out of a paper he gave at Harvard University last year.

Geoffrey Keelan, a new author, is a graduate student at Wilfrid Laurier University, and a member of the Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies. His wide-ranging research on Quebec and the First World War uncovered

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